

Maintenance

As you prepare for summer, whether you are going to continue with music in school or on your own, please consider **getting your instrument cleaned** this summer. A list of recommended materials is provided – **mouthpiece upgrades** are *strongly* suggested for those of you continuing on! A list of instrument upgrades can also be found on the band webpage.

Brass Instruments

Ultrasonic Cleaning

Brass instruments get dirty. The constant passage of warm, wet air through an instrument's bore means that regular cleaning is a must, else corrosion and rot become inevitable. Unless you brush your teeth before playing, sugar and food particles also get inside the horn, creating a sticky, unhealthy buildup. Over the course of weeks and months, the scum inside a brass instrument will eat away at the metal like rust on a car.

Recommended Materials:

All Brass

Item	Description
Mouthpiece brush	no exposed wire
Snake	vinyl coated spring
Cleaning rod	2x6" soft cotton
Soft cloth	any

Specific Instruments

Piston Brass – Valve Oil (Al Cass)
*Horns (rotary brass) use *Clark Terry*
Trombones – Slide Grease (Trombotine/Super Slick)

Woodwind Instruments

Re-Pad, Chemical Wash, Lacquer

As with any mechanical device, woodwind instruments require preventive maintenance and upkeep. A basic adjustment is equivalent to an oil change for your car. Taking proper care of your instrument keeps it in playing condition. Sometimes a basic adjustment or a re-pad can make a world of difference to a student player. Well-playing woodwind instruments must be kept clean with soft and supple pads, as well as proper adjustments.

*Wood instruments also require a yearly bore oiling.

Recommended Materials:

All Single-Reed Woodwinds

Item	Description
Swab	Muslin or China silk
Mouthpiece brush	no exposed wire
Cork grease (sans flute)	any
Key oil	Yamaha

Specific Instruments

Flute – Soft cloth
Single Reeds – Reed Guard (holds at least two)
Double Reeds – Shot glass/film canister to hold water

Upgrades

A new mouthpiece can completely change the sound of your instrument, greatly improving tone quality, as well as the ease with which it is produced. Please consider the following:

B-flat Clarinet: Vandoren B45, Vandoren M13
Bass Clarinet: Selmer Paris Standard, Yamaha 4C
Alto Saxophone: Meyer 6M, C-Star
Tenor Saxophone: Selmer S90, Meyer G – 6M
F Horn: Holton Farkas/Medium Cup, Yamaha GPR30

Trumpet: Bach 3C, Schilke 13C4
Trombone: Bach 6-1/2 AL, Yamaha 48
Euphonium: Schilke 51D, Bach 6-1/2 AL
Tuba: Conn-Helleburg, Bach 7
Percussion: Vic Firth, SD-1 Generals